



The Martha Messenger

Community Newsletter of the Martha T. Berry MCF

May 2009

Volume 6

Spring Sunshine And Flowers Are Here At Last



We Thank And Honor Our Nursing Staff In A Special Way This Month

May is usually a very beautiful month with trees beginning to bud and flowers starting to bloom. The sky is brighter and the weather more gentle...what a perfect month in which to honor our caregivers. According to the Internet, Nursing Home Week is observed from May 10 to the 16th and nurses are honored in a special way from May 6 to 12th. Anyone who has ever been seriously ill, had surgery, or spent time in a hospital or other medical facility, will remember the nurses with whom they came in contact and whose help and care they received.

Here at Martha T. Berry Medical Care Facility, nurses make up a large portion of our employees and provide for the residents in a number of ways. Laura Bundirks, the MTB Director of Nursing, states that it takes 170 individuals, working in various capacities, to provide care for our MTB residents. Registered Nurses have either



Laura Bundirks is Director of Nursing at Martha T. Berry MCF

a BSN or an Associate's Degree in Nursing and are direct medical care givers, with such duties as dispensing medications and performing treatments. Licensed Practical Nurses usually train in a two year program and perform much the same duties as the RN's. The Certified Nursing Assistants train in programs that must be at least 75 hours long and have 16 hours of clinical training. CNA's assist with the activities of daily living, feeding, dressing, bathing, and act as the eyes and ears of the nurses, observing the status of the residents and reporting

concerns to the nursing staff.

Laura states that Nursing "is a fulfilling, overwhelming profession. Dealing with human beings is a challenge because residents and their families know what they need and expect good care daily. She states that "once Nursing was primarily a woman's profession but that today, men are entering Nursing because it offers a great degree of job stability." She further states that "the profession offers many advantages; you are always learning and never bored. As a caregiver, you make others feel good and that is rewarding. Job security is an important factor in choosing Nursing as a career even though the hours worked sometimes keeps the nurse away from home and family. It is a versatile area, offering various areas of specialization for everyone." Thanks Laura and Nursing Staff!

Thanks To All Of Our Dedicated Nursing Staff

Thanks to the members of the MTB nursing staff who are here to give the residents the best care and resulting quality of life possible. They come from various backgrounds and a broad range of experiences and here, they share some of their thoughts during Nursing Home Week and Nurses Week.



Connie Vandenberghe began her career as a Veterinary Nurse.

back to school for her RN. She was inspired to become a CNA when she cared for her mother, grandmother and uncle as a young woman. While she has worked at several facilities during her career, she likes the more home-like atmosphere at Martha T. Berry. She loves to be able to be of service and to care for others.



Dianne Tardiff has been a nurse at MTB for over six years.

being a nurse. She loves working with and helping people. Connie states that when she worked with animals, they couldn't speak and tell her their problems. This has prepared her to be very observant when working with human patients.



Gail Nixon was brought to MTB by a good friend.

Diane Tardiff gives her father credit for her choice of a Nursing career. When she was in high school, he was seriously sick and she was encouraged to become a nurse to learn more about medicine and to give her father needed care. She has been a nurse for thirty three years and has experience as a Surgical Nurse, in Telemetry, as a Delivery Room Nurse, Hospice Nurse and as a Shift Supervisor. She presently works in 3200 and as a relief Shift Supervisor. Dianne states that nursing has been a fulfilling career choice because it allows her to be of service to others.



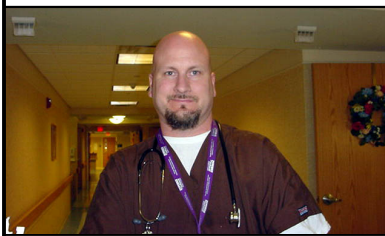
Tammy Hedgspeth works as a Restorative Nurses Aide.

Tom Taylor has been an LPN for 13 years. He decided to follow the lead of his brother, an X ray tech, and go into the medical field. He began working as a transporter in X ray and the experience inspired him to become a nurse instead. He had experience in ER and the Cardiovascular Cath Lab at Port Huron Hospital and has worked as a nurse at the Macomb County Jail. Tom has always liked long term care and finds it very rewarding. He states that "I always leave with a good feeling at the end of the day."

Connie Vandenberghe studied to be a Veterinary Assistant at Michigan State. She also worked as a food inspector and a manager at JoAnn Fabrics. After deciding on a career change, she went back to school and became a Licensed Practical Nurse. She has always liked medicine and enjoys

Tammy Hedgspeth says that she loves helping residents with exercises to restore or improve their range of motion. She studied to be a CNA and then received further training in her area at MTB. Tammy says that "I am a people person. I like to help people and to make them laugh. The thing I like about nursing is working with people. I love the people. I especially love to see a person get better and be able to move and do things for themselves."

Gail Nixon loves working with people and has always wanted to be a nurse. She has worked as a Certified Nursing Assistant for 27 years and plans to go



Tom Taylor likes building a good rapport with his patients.

Thanks To All Of Our Nurses Not Only In May But Always



Denise Wilson has been a Registered Nurse for three years now.

Denise Wilson appreciates all the “mothers” in her life and in all families...all of those who were caregivers for the rest of us...As a nurse, “she honors the mothers, aunts, grandmothers, teachers, and all those who acted as mentors and caregivers for others.” She has chosen to work in Geriatric Nursing because she “wants to take care of them now that they are in need themselves.” Denise works on 2100.



Joannie Haycock is CNA for 35 years.

Joannie Haycock says she planned to be a nun until she met her first boyfriend. Instead, she has ended up giving care and service as a CNA for 35 years. She states that she is a caring person and feels that working with the residents is, to her, like caring for her own family. She has worked as a housekeeper and in rehab but the close contact a CNA has with the residents is what she prefers. Joannie states that when she retires, she will go back to school and become an RN or LPN.

Liz Carlo was playing with a nurses kit when she was four years old and states that she has always wanted to be a nurse. Her mother’s illness also inspired her to go into nursing. Liz states that “nursing is a great responsibility and you must be up for a challenge as a nurse.” She began her career as a CNA, went on to become an LPN in 1984 and an RN in 1988. In addition to acting as Shift Supervisor on 2100, Liz has worked in a hospital orthopedic floor, in Telemetry, Oncology, and as DON at St. Anthony’s.



Liz Carlo is a life-long caregiver.

Tamika McCoy loves interaction with the residents and has been a CNA for 17 years, 4 1/2 of those years at MTB. At first she wanted to be a Vet but decided on caring for humans instead. She volunteered at Riverview Hospital and this was a source of inspiration to her. Tamika has a daughter named Paige and a cat named Coffee. She states that the residents at MTB “are all like my own family to me.”



Tamika McCoy loves being a CNA.



James Johnson cares about people.

James Johnson has been a CNA for 19 years, and at MTB for over 3 years. James says that he plans to spend his entire life working in the medical field because “he cares about people.” He enjoys working with the residents and being a caregiver. James is presently working for his LPN and will go on to become an RN.



Bill and Michelle Scott met at MTB

Bill and Michelle Scott are a real team at MTB. Michelle states that she became a CNA because the residents she cares for “are someone’s parents and should have a smile on their faces.” Bill has rheumatoid arthritis and spent a great deal of time in hospitals as a child and was inspired to become a CNA. Michelle, a CNA for 22 years, and Bill, a CNA for 24 years, both work on the same unit, 3200. They like working together and state that they know they can always depend upon one another and to trust one another to do the right thing. They have been married for 8 years.

Celebrating A Birthday In May



Viola Tracy spent her entire life in show business

Viola Tracy never went to school. That is not to say she did not have an education, no, she just did not go to school because she spent her life traveling around in show business and always had private tutors. Viola was born in Lansing, Michigan to her parents Tom and Dorothy. She was the youngest of three children and started to act in show business at the age of seven. She sang and danced and acted and did a great deal of traveling around the country. Viola appeared in two movies when she was still a child and spent three years actually living in Hollywood to make the films. Could she dance? You name it...tap, toe dancing, jazz, and ballet were among her specialties. She had a lovely voice and sang on stage, preferring ballads and sad songs. Viola said that she never had a chance to play childhood games and that she was always

dressed up and was not allowed to get dirty. She continued to perform as an adult and consequently visited many major cities. Viola married at the age of twenty five and had five children, Chandler, John, Dorothy, William, and Francis. She loves animals and recalls having dozens of cats and dogs during her lifetime. Today, she is still an avid reader and spends a great deal of time with books, magazines, and the newspaper. TV is another of her pastimes as is Bingo where she "is delighted to win fifty cents from time to time." Her dearest wish however, is that she "would be able to teach dancing here at Martha T. Berry if only my legs would hold out." Viola celebrates her 95th birthday in May and is expecting all of her children to pay her a visit. She is hoping for a computer. Viola states that she has been blessed with good health and is "doing well for my age." An outgoing person, Viola enjoys a friendly chat with all who stop in to visit. Happy Birthday, Viola!

Lori Steinbauer is the youngest resident celebrating a birthday in May. She was born in Roseville, Michigan and grew up there. Lori attended Roseville schools, among them are Lincoln Elementary School, Guest Junior High, and Rose-



Lori Steinbauer is our youngest birthday celebrant this month.

ville High School. Lori fondly recalls her two childhood pet dogs, Peppy the Pomeranian and Pudgy, an adorably mutt. She also remembers her best friend Linda and the Grove Family who lived next door. Lori was engaged at one time but decided not to marry. She has always loved to garden and worked for a landscaping and snow removal company, the perfect way to make a living while doing what you love to do. Lori claims a life long love of sports and enjoyed playing all kinds of games including baseball. She likes to listen to all kinds of music and dearly loves to go to fairs. A thoughtful person, Lori looks for opportunities to help others carry or find things. She loves to watch the big screen TV on the second floor. Be sure to give Lori a friendly birthday greeting if you meet her on her special day!

HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAYS

Muriel Nemes, May 8

Viola Tracy, May 8

Kenneth Tepin, May 10 Mary Kelly, May 10

Stella Kopytek, May 17 Lori Steinbauer, May 18

Frank Graziani, May 24 Elizabeth Wegener, May 26

Ilene Barger, May 29

EVENTS

May 5	Resident Council	2:00 PM
May 6	Mexican Cantina Party	2:30 PM
May 7	Food Committee Meeting	2:00 PM
May 10	Mother's Day Social	10:15 AM
May 12	Petting Zoo	All Day
May 12	Tony the Accordion Player and Banjo Dan	7:00 PM
May 13	Birthday Bingo	2:30 PM
May 16	Lioness Bingo	10:15 AM
May 19	Spring Fling With Barry Manilow	2:30 PM
May 20	Dollar Store	2:30 PM
May 22	Younger Generation Gathering	2:30 PM
May 26	Germack Nut Sale	All Day
May 27	2nd Floor Residents' BBQ	12:00 PM
May 27	Cootie Bingo	7:30 PM
May 28	3rd Floor Residents' BBQ	12:00PM
May 28	Pet-A-Pet Visits	7:00 PM



Residents' Corner



by Laurie Richards

Resident Council was held at 2:30 PM on Tuesday, April 7th, 2009. The Council suggested a few activity changes that will become effective starting in May. The changes include moving the Friday Night movie to Saturdays. The Council stated that Saturdays would be better for movie night because the television options on Saturday are not as good as those on Friday night. Also, the Council approved of changing the nail day activity to every other week. Nail day will alternate between the second and third floor each week to accommodate a larger number of persons able to get their nails done. During the meeting, the group discussed out trip ideas, dining room concerns, upcoming movie requests, and staffing questions.



Linda Braxton is a bright light!

May Employees of the Month

Residents have selected Linda Braxton and Rhonda Roberts as Employees of the Month. They say that Linda is very friendly and that she always goes the extra mile. When she cleans the floors, they shine. Linda is a "Bright Light!". Residents say that Rhonda is friendly and cheerful and that she is al-



Rhonda Roberts is friendly to all.

ways there to help. She is kind to all and loves everyone. She is even kind to Trooper and stops to give him a friendly pat. She always takes the time to have a nice word to all.



Cyndi Says.....



During this month, we express our thanks and appreciation to all our nurses who are here, day after day, doing what it takes to keep our residents healthy, safe, and happy. It is no small job and we are all extremely grateful for the many times you go beyond the call of duty and provide the many extras that make a difference here at Martha T. Berry. Our thanks to you and know that you are appreciated not only during this special month, but always.

Data has been gathered, materials have been accumulated, forms have been filled out and progress has been made as we move forward in our quest to become providers for Blue Cross and Blue Shield. We are also preparing to contact and provide the necessary documentation for HAP. Keep tuned in and progress will be reported as soon as strides are made.

In Loving Memory

Janet Cole Mary Jean Daugherty

Lavell Green Werner Krueger

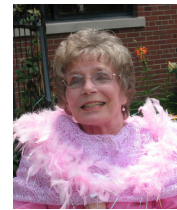
Sincere Sympathy Is Extended

To Friends and Family



May

from Lenore Plawchan,
Resident Poet



- May 2nd is Kentucky Derby Day—Ladies in their finery,
Who will the winner be?
- May 5th is Cinco De Mayo- a Mexican Fourth of July. They will be
celebrating, maybe even fireworks in the sky.
- May 10th is Mother's Day-Everybody has one. Buy her a card or send
her flowers, let her have some fun.
- May 11th is National Nursing Home Week. I wonder what that will
mean here. Maybe we will get a special meal, then the cook
will get a big cheer.
- May 25th is Memorial Day-it marks the beginning of Summer fun.
Picnics, boating, grilling hamburgers and hot dogs on a bun.



Thank You to Our Newsletter Sponsors Activities Department D. Wilson
Chris Cronin's Family Shendel Family
S.Kozemko Tom Murphy Ruth & Sergio Barrientez Cathy Lesniak J.Weiss
Douglas & Deborah DeMeester Sally Wheeler Gregory & Judith Zdankiewicz
Diane Gracher Marty Mok in Memory of Al Mok & Emily Krueger Anonymous
In Memory of Shaun Lil in Memory of Anna Giuliani The Litho Printing Company

Welcome To Our New Residents

Beverly Brown
Sharon Crozier
Margaret Hopp
Thomas Mantych
Gerald Trickett

Geraldine Colline
Carleton Fuhrman
Byron LaMonde
Judith Pokriefka
Martha Delekta



Pat Herman calls out a card that pleases Rosemarie Bochniak.

Mollie's Bingo

A Bingo was sponsored by Cathy Lesniak in memory of Mollie, the Therapy Dog. Held on April 14, the Bingo was attended by many of the residents that Mollie visited and befriended during her seven years of service. The activity concluded with hot fudge ice cream puffs. Residents expressed their thanks to Mollie and this inspired Rita to promise a yearly Mollie Memorial Bingo.



Marge Peterson assists Christine Campbell with her cream puff.



Just in time for your special someone...Martha T. Berry is hosting a day of shopping on Friday, May 8 from 9:00AM to 5:00PM. Come in and do all your shopping in one place...check out items available at **Home Sweet Home, Tubs of Fun, Glitz and Glamour, Nature Photography, and From Crystals to Crochet.** We are happy to announce that the **Farmer's Market** will be back and will feature flowering baskets and bedding plants and more. Proceeds will benefit MTB Employee Special Events. Come and have fun!



Tarah Baker is new MI Works Jet Program Volunteer. She works the Switchboard and front desk on Mondays and Fridays

Volunteers



Mary Kosulinski enjoys a visit from Samantha.



Samantha and Amanda pose with Kay Carpenter.

Samantha Scanlon won the title of Michigan Supreme Cover Model and will go on to the national Dream Girl USA Pageant in May. She came to visit the residents and took photos with many of them. Her sister Amanda came along to spread even more smiles. They are the daughters of Dorothy Watson, Unit Manager on 3200.